

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 15

June 23, 2010

**SUBJECT:** TRANSPORTING INJURED SUSPECTS/ARRESTEES - REVISED

**EFFECTIVE:** IMMEDIATELY

**PURPOSE:** Department Manual Section 4/648.13, *Transporting Injured Suspects/Arrestees* states, in part, "When it is necessary to transport a suspect or arrestee by ambulance, at least one officer shall accompany the suspect or arrestee in the ambulance." However, there may be instances when a suspect's or arrestee's injuries are so extreme or life-threatening that the presence of an officer in the patient care area of the ambulance may hinder the life-saving efforts of Los Angeles Fire Department personnel.

**PROCEDURE:** Attached is Department Manual Section 4/648.13.

This section allows a suspect or arrestee who requires emergency medical attention to be transported by rescue ambulance without the presence of an officer inside the ambulance during extreme or unusual circumstances and establishes procedures for documenting chain-of-custody of suspect's clothing or other evidence on the suspect's person in such circumstances. The revisions to Section 4/648.13 are indicated in italics.

This Order does not change the Department's procedure on handcuffing, as delineated in Manual Sections 4/217.30 and 4/217.32.

**AMENDMENT:** This Order amends Section 4/648.13 of the Department Manual.

**MONITORING RESPONSIBILITY:** All commanding officers shall have monitoring responsibility for this directive.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, Internal Audits and Inspections Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



CHARLIE BECK  
Chief of Police

Attachment

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**DEPARTMENT MANUAL**  
**VOLUME IV**  
**(4<sup>TH</sup> Quarter 2009)**

**648.13 TRANSPORTING INJURED SUSPECTS/ARRESTEES.** Suspects or arrestees *who* require routine medical treatment may be transported in a police vehicle to a Department Jail Dispensary, a Los Angeles County Medical Center, or a contract hospital. When arrestees, suspects, or others require emergency medical attention, they shall only be transported via rescue ambulance (4/210.75). When it is necessary to transport a suspect or arrestee by ambulance, *generally*, at least one officer shall accompany the suspect or arrestee in the ambulance.

*Officers **shall** accompany all restrained suspects or arrestees being transported to the hospital by rescue ambulance. This will ensure that adjustments to the restraints (e.g., handcuffs and Hobble Restraint Device) can be made, as necessary, for medical treatment and allow for the overall management and safety for all. Fire Department personnel may require that the restraints be removed in order to provide appropriate medical treatment. In those cases, the officer shall closely monitor the suspect or arrestee.*

**Exception:** *When an issue arises between Department personnel and the treating or the transporting Fire Department personnel, Department personnel may seek the advice of an on-scene supervisor or the on-duty watch commander; however, they shall not delay the transportation. If Fire Department personnel refuse to allow an officer to ride in the ambulance or an officer cannot reasonably be accommodated in the ambulance due to necessary medical treatment, at least one officer shall ride in the front passenger seat of the rescue ambulance or follow the rescue ambulance in their assigned police vehicle. Thereafter, the officer(s) **shall** document the incident on an Employee's Report, Form 15.07.00, addressed to the commanding officer of the involved Department entity. The concerned divisional watch commander shall log the incident on a Watch Commander's Daily Report, Form 15.80.00, and attach the Employee's Report.*

**Note:** *When the suspect's clothing or other items with the suspect have evidentiary value and cannot be removed prior to transportation, the assigned officer shall ensure that the chain of custody of such evidence is documented in the appropriate report.*